

Between January of 1942 and December of 1944, thousands of prisoners of war from the United States who had survived the surrenders throughout the Pacific were shipped in unmarked transports, known as "hellships" for forced labor, often with private companies, throughout the Japanese Empire.

By the war's end, more than 12,000 Americans had died in squalid POW camps, in the fetid holds of the "hellships," or in forced labor camps owned by Japanese companies where they were denied food, water, sanitation, clothing, and medical care. As a result, the death rate for American POWs of Japan was 40 percent. Less than half of the men of New Mexico Coast Artillery and the members of the 192nd and 194th Provisional Tank Battalions returned home after the war.

Surviving as a POW of Japan and returning home was the beginning of new battles: finding acceptance in society and living with serious mental and physical ailments that the Veterans Administration was unprepared to address, resulting in death rates that were more than twice those of the comparably aged White male population of the time.

The veterans of the early defensive battles in the Pacific represented all States, Tribes, and Territories of the United States, a diversity of ethnicities and religions embodying the American spirit of perseverance, faith, and optimism.

President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day in 1988, which was established to coincide with April 9, the anniversary of the surrender of Bataan and the start of the Bataan Death March.

The U.S. Navy has honored the service and heroism of the veterans of early battles in the Pacific by naming several ships after the 1942 fighting in the Philippines and other places in the Pacific, including one still in service, the USS *Bataan* (LHD-5), homeported in Norfolk, VA; as well as the now decommissioned USS *Corregidor* (CVE-58); USS *Antrim* (FFG-20); USS *Bangust* (DE-739), USS *Baron* (DE-739), USS *Elrod* (FFG-55), and USS *Rooks* (DD-804).

It is time to recognize the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor: ordinary men and women who found uncommon courage in extraordinary circumstances to fight the impossible and endure the unimaginable for freedom from tyranny and oppression.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING WAVES

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, in 1973 the citizens of Fairview, TN set out to solve a problem. Their community was growing, but individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities were being left behind. Not content to ignore their plight, a small

group of families and local leaders put their heads together. After much deliberation, Waves was born.

50 years later, what started as a small but significant passion project has blossomed into a pillar of the Williamson County community. Each day, close to 100 full-time and part-time employees and volunteers serve more than 700 children and adults through early learning, adult day service, adult residential, and employment programs.

Here in Washington, we provide what support we can to community programs like these. But, as the people at Waves and other places like it will tell you, what keeps these organizations going is the support of their friends and neighbors and the belief in the possibility of a loving and more supportive world.

As they celebrate their 50th anniversary, I want to thank the dedicated team at Waves for giving so much of themselves to this cause. On behalf of all Tennesseans, I wish you the very best and look forward to seeing what you do next.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 424. A bill to protect the seniors of the United States, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-479. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-480. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7A of the Clayton Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-481. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2019 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-482. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Literature Review and Data Analysis on Deaths in Custody"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-483. A communication from the President of the United States Capitol Historical Society, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Society's fiscal year 2022 annual report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL); to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-484. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to notifying Congress that the Commission did not complete or initiate competitive sourcing for conversion in fiscal year 2022, nor do they plan to do so in fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-485. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modifications of Approval Requirements for Courses Designed to Prepare Individuals for Licensure or Certifications" (RIN2900-AQ91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-486. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments" (RIN2900-AR79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-487. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergent Suicide Care" (RIN2900-AR50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-488. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-489. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of the Statement of Enforcement Principles Regarding 'Unfair Methods of Competition' under Section 5 of the FTC Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-490. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy Statement of the Federal Trade Commission on Rebates and Fees in Exchange for Excluding Lower-Cost Drug Products" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-491. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-492. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustments to Civil Penalty Amounts" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.